After obtaining the approval of the Steering Committee of ONGC as well as Asian Developmen; Bank ONGC has awarded the contract to M/s HH1-OHI Consortium at a lumpsum price of USS 220.875 million, after availing the goodwill reduction of USS one million offered by this bidder.

Defaulting LPG Agencies in the Country

6760. SHRI GOPAL SINGH G. SOLANKI: CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the state-wise details of the number of LPG agencies detected which had been selling duplicate gas cylinde: s to consumers during the last three years:

(b) the action taken against them:

(c) the source of getting duplicate gas cylinders by the agencies;

(d) the number of cases which have been detected in Gujaral in said years: and

(c) the action taken against the companies manufacturing duplicate cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Inspections are carried out by field staff of LPG marketing companies to detect circulation of spurious cylinders with the distributors and transporters, etc. However, on inspection, the spurious cylinders are mostly detected at the bottling plants, where they are crushed and destroyed. When transporters and distributors are found in possession of and selling or circulating spurious cylinders, warning is issued to them and a penal recovery of Rs. 1500/—per spurious cylinder is made from them.

(e) to (c) Spurious cylinders arc injected into the system by unscrupulous elements, after procuring the same from cylinder manufacturers. When approved and licensed cylinder manufacturers are found to manufacture and supply spurious cylinders, further procurement of cylinders from them by the Oil Industry is suspended and statutory approvals arc withdrawn. Police action against such manufacturers and those found involved in circulation of spurious cylinders is also taken. Suspected premises are raided and offenders are anested and spurious cylinders seized.

Purchase of cylinders has been suspended from eight cylinder manufacturers in the country at present for involvement in manufacture/supply of spurious cylinders as follows:

1. Veejay Metal Products Pvt. Ltd.. Andhra Pradesh.
2. Mullur Cylinders Pvt. Ltd.. Belgaum.
3. Mullur Engineers Pvt. Ltd., Halol.
4. Associated Cylinders Industries Pvt. Ltd.. Jammu
5. International Cylinders Pvt. Ltd.. Himachal Pradesh.
6. Punjab Gas Cylinders Ltd., Punjab.
7. Tirupati Cylinders Pvt. Ltd., Uttar Pradesh.
8. Everest Cylinders Pvt. Ltd., Uttar Pradesh.